

2015 - 2016

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Curios and Relics

Household Textiles

Sheets

Lincoln Death Bed

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

"When Lincoln came back into the Capital Building after taking the Oath of Office for the President of the United States and Delivering his Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861. Mr. Ragan who was on Special assigned duty that day claimed according to his Brother-in-law 's statement that Lincoln for the first time signed his name as "President" in ~~th~~ this book.

Here is a photostatic copy of this leaf for you to keep.

TALBOTT & PRETTYMAN
Attorneys at Law
Rockville, Md.

May 23, 1923.

Dr. John E. Washington
463 Florida Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry you have lost the original letter verifying the piece of the sheet on which President Lincoln died. I may not be able to be so explicit in this letter as I was in the original for some of the facts have passed out of my memory. You need not however feel any doubt as to the genuineness of the relic. My brother in law, Mr. Ragan, was an official of the U. S. Senate at the time of Mr. Lincoln's assassination and had occasion to be in close contact with the Government officials who were present at the bedside of the martyred President when he died. He begged for some memento and obtained this piece of the sheet on which Mr. Lincoln died stained as it was with the blood of that great and good man. As Mr. Ragan was present at the house on the 10th St. the morning after the death took place and received the piece direct from the hands of those who had charge of the removal of the body there can be no question about its genuineness. Mr. Ragan often showed it to me and at his death several years ago gave me the memento. I am not clear as to just how it got from my possession into yours but am quite sure it passed to you all right. I would be glad anytime to put any mark of verification on it if you want it. But this letter ought to be sufficient.

I am glad to give you this additional letter.

Yours truly,

Signed: Warren Choate.

Recd Mr Mc Murtry -
this piece of sheet you saw
above the mantle with
original letter

War



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